Mighty Fist of British Empire

As Seen in this War

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The two greatest fighting factors in the world when the war began were Germany's army and England's navy.

Britain's Jack-tar has proved to be a vastly more potent weapon than Prussia's soldier.

At the end of four years of battles, England's warships have inflicted far greater damage to Germany than the Kaiser's huge standing army has been able to inflict upon the British Empire.

With the first drum-beat of war, England's ready seamen drove every German surface ship, mercantile and fighting craft, from the oceans, and have kept them off ever since.

England has captured from Germany territory twenty times the size of Pennsylvania, while Hindenburg's Huns have not taken a square inch of British soil.

In one month the British navy, with its auxiliary war craft, in its mighty task of guarding the highroads of the sea, steams a total of 7,000,000 miles.

What is the sequel to this sleepless vigilance? There have been transported over the seas, to and from the war zones, twenty million soldiers and workers, with a loss of only one man out of every six thousand.

Without England's invincible fleet to protect the French ports, Germany would have strangled France during the first year of war, and so ended the conflict.

Thus England's Jack-tar saved the Allies from swift annihilation by Prussia's prepared hosts in 1914, and from that checkmate the brutal Hun will never emerge unbeaten.

Only the pro-German propagandist or the man who sees red when England is mentioned, speaks slightingly of what has been done under the aegis of the Union Jack.

Barring her unmatched fleet which, like the Kaiser's army, was ready for a war at any hour, England was as unprepared in August, 1914, as was the United States; but the thing which the British Empire has accomplished during these four years of battles is prodigious.

In twenty-one months, over 5,000,000 Britons volunteered for the war.

At the present moment, every fourth male in England, Scotland and Wales from the baby boy in his cradle to the oldest man, is attached to the army or navy —an example of mobilization that staggers an American, where as yet only one male out of every seventeen is with the colors!

British arsenals now produce in one day as many big shells for her mighty guns as they made during the entire first year of war.

Taking shot and shell of every kind, the busy Briton now turns out every week 575 times as many as he was able to produce eight months after the Kaiser struck the opening blow of the war.

That shows what is coming to the Kaiser, and coming so fast from "straefed" England he will have a slim chance of ducking.

There are today 6,500,000 men in British uniform, as an official report shows, and that does not include 1,000,000 native troops in the various dominions or over-sea dependencies.

When the opening shot of the war was fired, the Empire contained only 250,000 regular troops.

During the darkness of two nights, four years ago this month, England sent to France that first gallant little army of about 120,000 men. That army virtually perished to stem the onrushing German hordes from reaching the sea.

It stopped it on the tragic field of Mons and in the subsequent retreat, but it paid an awful price. One division of 12,000 men lost 10,000 and 350 of its 400 officers.

That original army soon vanished, and hundreds of thousands of partly trained Britons were hurried into France to help hold the desperate and maddened Prussian armies.

As proof of how these ill-prepared volunteers fought for France, for home, and for liberty, the record of casualties will forever testify. In sixteen months Britain's killed and wounded rolled up to the appalling total of 550,000, of whom 101,000 were dead.

In the four years of our Civil War only 110,000 Union soldiers were killed on battlefields or died of wounds.

Did these colossal losses in man-power halt John Bull? Not much they didn't. He had greater battles to fight.

Official reports show that at the battle of the Somme 527,000 British were killed or wounded. That fight lasted three months over a front of twenty miles, and Germany's losses were far greater than that.

The Dardanelles campaign cost the British Empire 117,500 in killed or wounded.

Up to the present time over 1,500,000 British fighters have been permanently put out of the war, which shows that the British lion is no quitter before the job is done.

Notwithstanding these enormous sacrifices in men, the British Empire today has its maximum force in uniform.

The British navy is now 160 per cent. larger than it was the day the war began, and it is manned by over three times as great a force, or 430,000 seamen.

In one month British yards have completed or repaired 1000 warships, which is a thundering index of the stupendous facilities created to maintain Britain's proud boast that "Britannia Rules the Waves."

But the Britisher has had to step lively to keep ahead of the British women in this world battle for freedom. When it started, about 200,000 women of Great Britain were employed in the industries.

Now, more than 5,500,000 women and girls are working on war jobs in the classified trades. Nearly 1,000,000 of them are making munitions.

And the Boy Scouts have followed their mothers and their dads into the melee. Over 50,000 of them are employed at the War Office and 15,000 are real soldiers.

The Englishman is a careful chap and does not believe in the German financial theory of paying for the war with deadly *I. O. U's,* which are bound to haunt the Hun for decades to come. Like the United States, Great Britain, as far as possible, levies taxes to pay for the war.

An Englishman who earns $800 a year, pays $22 income tax. A man who earns $5000 a year, pays $625 tax, and a $10,000 income pays $1880 tax.

Great Britain's national debt is now about twenty-eight billion dollars, but of that sum six billions represent loans to her Allies and her dominions, which will be repaid.

These figures of man-power and money-power mobilized in war array show that the British Empire is enlisted in this fight up to the hilt, and will stay enlisted until the finish. Vast as have been her losses in dollars and in blood, England officially declares that Germany's losses are greater.

The four years of war he created has already cost the Kaiser, so London officially reports, more than 5,000,000 men, who are either dead or permanently removed by wounds from the scenes of conflict.

Two days before Waterloo, Napoleon walloped Bleucher's Prussian Army at Ligny, but from that day, for just ninety-nine years, no Prussian army had ever been routed by a foe. Then Joffre, at the Marne, smashed the German lines and saved Paris.

In the union of America, England, France and Italy today, each is giving, or prepared to give, its uttermost to crush the Hun so thoroughly that in another ninety-nine years there will be no occasion to sacrifice a dollar or a human life to beat down a Hohenzollern enemy.